Provision of Telephone Connection in Pauri Garhwal

1631. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests for provision of telephone connection to residents of village of Shrikot, Patti Khatsyun, Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh have been pending for a very long time;

(b) whether these residents have already deposited the amount towards telephone connections;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has also written to Government regarding the problem of these residents;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the steps proposed for giving them early connection keeping in view the backwardness of the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The requests for provision of telephone connections to the resident of the village Shrikot, Patti Khatsyun have been pending since May, 2000 only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The demand for telephone connections have been registered by the residents of the village Shrikot in May, 2000. That is why these demands were not included in the plan for 2000-2001 for commissioning of an exchange.

(e) For providing telephone connections to the residents of village Shrikot a telephone exchange has been planned at Sikukhal during 2001-2002. Sikukhal is the centre place for all the villages of Patti Khatsyun.

Opening of Post Offices in the Villages of Gujarat

1632. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for opening of a village post office;

(b) the total number of villages in Gujarat;

(c) the number of villages where post offices are available;